

Having described the invention, the following is claimed:

1. An intermediate steering column for a vehicle having a firewall, said intermediate steering column comprising:

a first U-joint connectable with a steering wheel of the vehicle;

a first shaft pivotally attached to said first U-joint and rotatable about a longitudinal axis of said first shaft upon rotation of said first U-joint;

a second shaft drivingly connected to said first shaft and having a slip joint connection with said first shaft permitting relative axial movement of said first and second shafts while maintaining a rotary drive connection between said first and second shafts;

a second U-joint pivotally attached to said second shaft and connectable with a steering mechanism of the vehicle; and

said first shaft comprising first and second shaft parts and a quick disconnect joint between said first and second shaft parts permitting disconnection of said first and second shaft parts and pivoting of

said first shaft part relative to said first U-joint to a first out of the way position and pivoting of said second shaft part relative to said second U-joint to a second out of the way position.

2. An intermediate steering column as defined in claim 1 wherein said first shaft part includes a first surface extending parallel to said longitudinal axis of said first shaft part engageable with a second surface on said second shaft part extending parallel to said first surface.

3. An intermediate steering column as defined in claim 2 wherein said quick disconnect joint includes a fastener extending through said first and second surfaces.

4. An intermediate steering column as defined in claim 1 wherein said second shaft part includes a tubular end into which said first shaft part extends.

5. An intermediate steering column as defined in claim 4 wherein said quick disconnect joint includes a fastener extending through said tubular end of said second shaft part and said first shaft part located within said tubular end.

6. An intermediate steering column as defined in claim 1 wherein said quick disconnect joint includes a bolt extending through said first and second shaft parts and a nut threadably engaging said bolt.

7. An intermediate steering column as defined in claim 6 further including a second bolt extending through said first and second shaft parts and a second nut threadably engaging said second bolt.

8. An intermediate steering column as defined in claim 1 wherein said first U-joint is located at least in part on a side of the firewall opposite a passenger compartment of the vehicle, said first shaft being for location at least in part on the side of the firewall opposite the passenger compartment.